

the OUTLOOK

of Pleasant Hill

Pleasant Hill has a voice on AAC



The 11-member Aviation Advisory Committee (AAC) has two

members representing the interests of Pleasant Hill residents on Buchanan Airport issues—David Freet, appointed by the Pleasant Hill City Council, and Janet Kaiser, representing Diablo Valley College. Freet is currently the Secretary of the committee and is responsible for spearheading the community relations strategy for the group.

The committee, established by the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors nearly 40 years ago, was designated the Aviation Liaison Committee. In 1977 city representatives from Pleasant Hill and Concord, as well as a representative from DVC, were added to the group. Among other changes made then, the committee was expanded to 11 and its name was changed to the Aviation Advisory Committee (AAC). In June 2003 minor changes were made to the committee's scope, purpose, and objectives. The committee is now made up of one member appointed by each of five Supervisors, one member from the City of Concord, one member from the City of Pleasant Hill, one member from Diablo Valley College, one member from Buchanan Field businesses (Fixed Based Operators), and two members at-large—Buchanan and Byron vicinities.

The scope of the committee has been narrowed to those aviation issues related to economic viability and security of the Buchanan Field and Byron airports. The AAC may initiate discussions, observations or investigations in order to make its recommendations. It also advances and promotes the interests of aviation and protects the general welfare of the people living and working near the airport and the County in general.

The most recent highlight and accomplishments for 2003 of the AAC include:

Noise Abatement

- Total noise complaints were down 25%, 2003 over 2002 (375 vs. 499)
- 30% due to medical "life flights" and law enforcement
- Complaints from Pleasant Hill residents down 30% (117 vs. 168)
- Pleasant Hill had 31% of the total complaints in 2003

Buchanan Flight Operations

- Down 14% year-over-year (119,106 vs. 138,572)

Flight operations were down primarily due to the economy, the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and the move of a helicopter flight school's core operations to another state. Noise complaints and flight operations roughly correlate over the long-term, as flight operations

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We're saving a place for YOU!

Mayor will speak at Chamber breakfast on State of the City

Mayor Michael Harris will speak on the State of Pleasant Hill and his plans for 2005 at the annual Mayor's Breakfast on Friday, January 21 at 7:30am at the Summerfield Suites, 2611 Contra Costa Blvd.

The breakfast, sponsored by the Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce, costs \$22 per person. Tickets are on sale through the Chamber. For more information on this popular event, contact Nancye at the Chamber at 687-0700.



Business license renewals due

Pleasant Hill business licenses must be renewed in January to avoid costly penalties. Renewal applications were sent out from the City in December and need to be returned by January 31 to avoid penalties. If your business did not receive a renewal application, please call 671-5234 and another one will be sent to you. If your business has closed or moved, sign and date the renewal application and send it back to Business License Department at the City of Pleasant Hill, 100 Gregory Lane.

Information about flooding and services available in the City...

Flooding during the winter can occur in some parts of Pleasant Hill. Here is a roundup of information residents may need to be prepared in the event of flooding.

✓ To report a flooding problem in your neighborhood

To report a flooding problem in your neighborhood, call the City Public Works Department at 671-5264 weekdays during regular business hours. If it is an emergency, contact the Police Department at 288-4600.

✓ Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs)

Certain areas of the City have been designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as Special Flood Hazard Areas. There are currently approximately 700 homes within these flood zones. SFHAs are areas within the 100-year flood boundary as mapped by FEMA. A "100 year flood" refers to a flood level with 1 percent or greater chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. There is a 26% chance that a structure located in a SFHA will be inundated by a 100-year flood during the life of a 30-year mortgage. In comparison, the risk of fire is approximately 5% in the same time period. Smaller floods have a greater chance of occurring in any given year and can still create a significant hazard to life and property.

✓ Local flood hazard

Flooding in Pleasant Hill is generally caused by the following: a creek overtopping its banks, clogged catch basin or storm drains, poor site drainage, and mud and debris laden flows from the hills above the City. To find out the flood hazard to your property, or information on flood related questions, call the City Public Works Department at 671-5264.

✓ City flood service

If requested, City staff will visit a property to review its flood problem(s) and explain ways to reduce flooding

potential or help to prevent flood damage. Flood maps and flood protection references are also available at the Central County Library located at 1750 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill, 646-6434.

✓ Drainage system maintenance

Although the City regularly cleans and maintains channels, dumping debris into storm drains creates problems for everyone. Such dumping not only results in an expense to taxpayers for cleanup, but also can restrict water flow and create flood hazards. The dumping of debris into the City's storm drainage channels is prohibited by Municipal Code. To report cases of illegal dumping in channels, call the Public Works Department at 671-5264.

✓ Property protection measures

There are several ways to help protect property from flood hazards. The following examples may or may not be economically feasible or practical for every situation:

- Provide adequate drainage paths around structures on slopes.
- Elevate or relocate electrical panel boxes, furnaces, water heaters, and appliances to an area that is less likely to be flooded.
- Move essential items and valuables to the upper floors of your home if flooding is likely.
- Keep materials such as sandbags, plywood, and plastic sheeting handy for emergency waterproofing. Sandbags can be obtained at the City Corporation Yard located at 310 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill and during the rainy season sandbag stations are also set up at City Hall (visitor parking lot) and Oak Park Boulevard/Monticello Avenue.
- Anchor the structure to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement.
- Elevate homes so that the lowest floor is a minimum of one foot above the base flood (100 year) elevation.

For more information about how to help protect your property from floods or retrofitting techniques, call the Public

Works Department at 671-5264 or visit the Central County Library at 1750 Oak Park Boulevard, 646-6434.

✓ Flood Insurance

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) makes flood insurance available to everyone in Pleasant Hill. Renters can also purchase flood insurance to cover their possessions. It is important to note that the standard homeowners policy that most of us have will not cover a loss caused by flooding. For information about flood insurance, call your insurance agent or the NFIP customer service line at (800) 638-6620.

Homes and business located within SFHAs are required to be covered under a flood insurance policy as a condition of federally funded loans or mortgages. The minimum standard flood insurance coverage required by the federal government for a SFHA property is the less of the following: 1) the outstanding mortgage balance on the structure, 2) the replacement cost of the structure or 3) \$250,000 for a residential structure and \$500,000 for industrial/commercial. This insurance coverage limit does not apply to property outside the SFHA.

✓ Elevation Certificates (EC)

An Elevation Certificate (EC) provides elevation information necessary to determine the proper insurance premium rate. If your house is at or above the base flood elevation, you could receive a substantial discount on your flood insurance premium by providing an EC to your insurance agent.

For properties in flood Zone AO an EC can be filled out by the property owner or the owner's representative. For all other flood zones, the EC will have to be prepared by a licensed surveyor or engineer.

Copies of the form and instructions are available from the City Public Works Department or can be downloaded from FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/library/elvcert.pdf.

The City of Pleasant Hill maintains the Elevation Certificates of all new and substantially improved buildings in the

SFHA. To obtain a copy of the certificates or for help in preparing one, call the Public Works Department at 671-5264.

✓ Flood warnings

If flooding occurs the City will warn citizens through radio, TV announcements, and emergency officials and vehicles. You should:

- Know the flood warning procedures and plan escape routes to high ground.
- Monitor the level of water in the street or flood control channel.
- Stay tuned to your battery-operated radio AM 740 and TV Channel 26 for possible warnings.
- Turn off water and electricity in your home during flood emergencies; turn off gas only if you smell gas.
- Be especially cautious at night.

For additional information on the City's flood warning and emergency response plan contact the City Office of Emergency Services, Police Department, 330 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill, 288-4600.

✓ Floodplain development permit requirements

Any development within the SFHA is subject to Federal and City Floodplain management requirements. Always check with the Building Department before you build on, alter, regrade, or fill on your property. To report illegal floodplain development activity, call the Public Works Department at 671-5264.

■ **Floor Elevation** – New residential buildings in the SFHA must have their lowest floor elevation (excluding garage) flood-proofed or raised a minimum of 1 foot above the base flood (100-year) elevation.

■ **Substantial Improvements (SI)** – Substantially improved structures in the SFHA must meet the same floodplain construction requirements as new buildings. SI is defined as any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the fair market value of the structure before the start of the new construction.

■ **Substantial Damage (SD)** – Substantially damaged structures (a structure damaged so that the cost of repairs equals or exceeds 50% of the structure's value before it was damaged) in the SFHA must also meet the same floodplain construction requirements as new buildings.

County Aviation Advisory Committee —Continued from page 1

increase so do noise complaints. However, 2003 noise complaints were down almost twice as much as operations.

Freet and Kaiser believe the complaint reduction is at least partially due to the following AAC accomplishments last year: 2003 saw the AAC initiate a major push to bring pilots, businesses and the communities together; the committee formed a Community Relations Sub-committee, which launched a strategy to take AAC meetings into the community; the AAC supported the appointment of a Community Relations Officer on Airport staff, which produced more community interaction and launched the quarterly Airports Newsletter in the first quarter of 2003; the committee assisted in finalizing wording of new signs to remind pilots of their noise abatement responsibilities; and the AAC formed a subcommittee to address the Buchanan Master Plan Update process and the proposed airport closure issue.

Buchanan noise complaints and flight operations through November 2004 (the most recent data) are both higher compared to 2003. Complaints are up 12%, and flight operations have increased slightly, 7%. Noise complaints for the City of Pleasant Hill are up 25% from last year. This is due mainly to an unusual

wind pattern this past summer that caused more than usual aircraft flights over the City during this period. One of the biggest issues in 2004 that will remain so in 2005 is the Board of Supervisors' request for proposals to move the operation and develop the 495 acres of Buchanan Field. The AAC has responded to the Board's request for input on this issue stating that it is unanimously opposed to moving the airport and believes the process for seeking such proposals is flawed.

Another important topic for 2004 and 2005 is the formal Federal Aviation Administration funded Buchanan Master Plan Update, which the AAC closely monitors. The Board of Supervisors has formed a Steering Committee to oversee this process. Linda Stehr, Senior Management Analyst for the City Manager's Office represents Pleasant Hill on this committee. The Steering Committee plans to hold extensive community input meetings, including Pleasant Hill residents and businesses in 2005.

Buchanan Airport security also will see a significant upgrade this year. The Airports Division is currently in the final



stages of the selection process with a security systems design company. Implementation of the new security upgrades is expected to begin shortly.

As part of its community relations outreach strategy, the AAC intends to hold one of its regular meetings in Pleasant Hill this year. The public will be invited and this will give Pleasant Hill residents an opportunity to bring up topics of interest to Pleasant Hill residents and businesses. The next issue of Outlook will include a survey for Pleasant Hill residents on Buchanan Airport topics. The results of the survey will provide information to help finalize an agenda for the AAC meeting.

If residents have any questions or comments, contact the ACC representatives by e-mail at airport@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us.

"My Little Sweetheart" Valentine Party

Hey Moms and Dads!
Bring "your little sweetheart" to an exciting Valentine Party!

It happens on Friday, February 11, 6:30–8:30pm at the Pleasant Hill Community Center. Create lasting memories with your special little one while decorating cookies, dancing, and making a photo keepsake. Brush up on your hokey pokie and remember the greatest gift you can give your little sweetheart is your time. Pre-registration is required and the event costs \$9 per person. Call 676-5200 for more information or to register.

Everyone's invited to
Special Olympics'

Crab Feed



Benefiting East Bay Region
Special Olympics Athletes

Sat • Feb 26, 2005
6pm–11pm

Pleasant Hill Community Center
320 Civic Dr

Tickets Now on Sale!



LAW ENFORCEMENT
TORCH RUN
SPECIAL OLYMPICS
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Donation \$30
Door Prize
Raffle / Auction

Hosted by
Pleasant Hill
Police Association

For information or tickets call 288-4610

Music in Pleasant Hill brings great sounds close to home

Start the New Year with these family-friendly, affordable "Music in Pleasant Hill" Concerts!

Renowned guitarist **John McCutcheon** will perform on Saturday, January 15, at the Pleasant Hill Community Center. McCutcheon has been called "Steinbeck with a guitar" for his thought-provoking songs and stories. The five-time Grammy-nominated artist is a master of a wide variety of folk music including guitar and hammer dulcimer. McCutcheon learned music in eastern Kentucky coal camps, union halls, country churches, and square dance halls. His apprenticeship to many legendary figures of Appalachian music resulted in music with a profound mark of place, family, and strength. It also created a storytelling style that has been compared to Will Rogers and Garrison Keillor. John's performances are for the whole family. People of every generation and background seem to feel at home in a concert hall when John McCutcheon takes the stage.

If you like harmonica music, Rock, R&B, Blues, New Age, Country or Jazz, **Norton Buffalo and the Knockouts** presents them all at the Pleasant Hill Community Center on Saturday, February 19. Buffalo has been a 25-year highly celebrated member of the Steve Miller Band,

performing live before millions. He has been sought after as a recording artist, having played on more than 100 albums by artists as diverse as Bonnie Raitt, Kenny Loggins, The Doobie Brothers, The Marshall Tucker Band, Johnny Cash, David Grisman, Juice Newton, Laurie Lewis and Elvin Bishop. Buffalo's new release is King of the Highway.

Music in Pleasant Hill is presented by the Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District and Community Concerts to promote appreciation of the arts. Concerts are held at the Pleasant Hill Community Center. Tickets for both shows are \$22 in advance. Doors open at 7:15pm and the shows begin at 8pm. Refreshments are available. Call Community Concerts at 229-2710 for tickets. For more information, go online at www.pleasanthillrec.com.



Folk musician John McCutcheon.

"Sisters in Crime" comes to Pleasant Hill

The popular **Sisters in Crime** program will come to the City on Saturday, February 5, at the Hillcrest Congregational Church, 404 Gregory Lane. The program is an enjoyable evening with three Bay Area mystery writers—Cara Black, Rhys Bowen and a third author to be announced.

Ms. Black will be making her second appearance on the program and will be remembered for her detective Aimee Luduc, the young sleuth of her first novel, "Murder in the Marais." Also on the program for a second visit is Ms. Bowen who is remembered for her Welsh Constable in a small Welsh village in North Wales.

This is the tenth year of the program presented by the American Association of University Women. For information and reservations, call Bernice Ball at 825-3622 or Jean Hambleton at 798-2344. For information regarding membership in the AAUW, call Suzanne Mesetz at 283-3050.



Mystery writer Cara Black.

...Music, food, workshops, and seminars!



Workshops are scheduled for educators

The Watershed Project is a non-profit environmental education organization whose mission is to educate and inspire communities to protect their local watershed. The educator

programs train teachers and their students in integrating watershed education into formal curriculum, participating in hands-on science, and investigating local environmental issues. The educator training workshops are closely tied to California Content Standards in Science, Math, Language Arts, and Social Studies.

■ KIDS IN GARDENS

Day 1: The Randall Museum; Day 2: Alice Fung Yu Elementary School
Saturday, January 22 and 29; 9am to 4pm in San Francisco
Saturday, February 5 and 12; 9am to 4pm in Lafayette/Moraga (location TBA)

In this two-day workshop, gather the tools that will help build and integrate a garden into your school. Learn techniques to propagate plants, eliminate pests without harmful chemicals, improve your soil, reduce waste, conserve water, and create wildlife habitat.

■ GETTING STARTED GARDEN DESIGN

Saturday, February 26, 2005; 9am–12:30pm
in Lafayette (Merriwood Children's Center)

This half-day workshop is a hands-on introduction to designing and building a school garden that promotes “green gardening” from the ground up, including basic layout of your school garden, obtaining and using recycled materials, preparing and caring for your soil naturally, and strategies for water conservation.

For a pdf copy of the complete brochure of our Spring 2005 Workshops, go to <http://www.thewatershedproject.org/upcoming.html> to view it on our website and print a copy. To receive copies of our Spring brochure, phone (510) 231-9430 or email workshops@thewatershedproject.org.

AAUW holds International Soup Supper

The Pleasant Hill Branch of the American Association of University Women will host an International Soup Supper on Wednesday, January 19, from 6 to 9pm at the Hillcrest Congregational Church, 404 Gregory Lane.

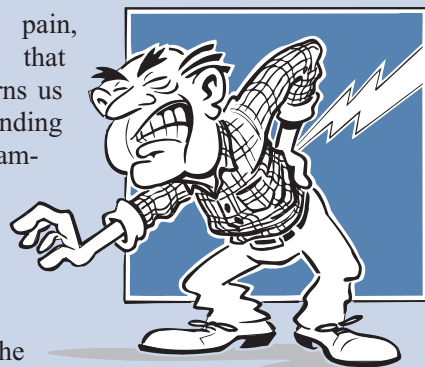
International traveler Richard Brewer, pastor emeritus of the Pleasant Hill Faith Lutheran Church, will present “But Don’t Drink the Water,” an informative and entertaining view of travel. Attendees may choose to provide one of the following: a pot of soup to serve 8 to 10 people, a dessert to serve 6 to 8 people, or a \$5 donation at the door. Bring your own soup bowl and spoon. Bread and drinks will be provided.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Peggy Blake by January 14 at 944-5475 or by e-mail at ggarrison@go.com.

Living with chronic pain

Fifty million Americans live with a chronic pain condition, such as arthritis, fibromyalgia, back/neck pain, osteoporosis, or unresolved nerve pain.

Acute pain, such as that which warns us of impending tissue damage, serves a purpose by sustaining the life of the organism.



Western medicine has been quite effective in its treatment of this type of pain, which generally goes away when the threat is gone or the body tissue is repaired. Chronic pain, that which lasts six months and longer, has been more difficult to treat. Sometimes it seems not to serve a purpose and is not as well understood as acute pain. Pain touches our daily lives in many ways, affecting the mind, body, and the spirit.

Therefore, successful treatment usually involves a multidisciplinary approach incorporating techniques that consider how the mind, body, and spirit interact.

With this in mind, Mt. Diablo Adult Education is offering a workshop in chronic pain management this winter term. Attend this workshop and learn how to reduce pain and its side effects (depression, stress, isolation, etc.); develop your own pain management program from the techniques demonstrated; and learn about techniques for pain reduction that you may not have considered.

Facilitator Barbara Anson, a chronic pain “survivor” who holds a MA in Holistic Health Education from John F. Kennedy University, will present the six-week chronic pain workshop. It will meet six Tuesdays beginning February 15 from 3:45 to 6pm. The class costs \$17. For more information about the workshop or about chronic pain support groups, call Barbara at 681-3127.

Economic Development/Business News in Pleasant Hill...

In an effort to strengthen the lines of communication between the City, the business community and residents, Economic Development/Business News in Pleasant Hill will focus on providing information to residents about new businesses in the City. Our hope is that you

may learn about a new business that provides goods and/or services that you may need or find useful.

The City of Pleasant Hill is committed to enhancing the viability of the business community and improving communication and service among business,

government and the community. If you know of any business that is interested in locating to Pleasant Hill, contact Kelly Calhoun in the City's Economic Development program at 671-5213.

New Businesses in October 2004

Better Living Care Home

Adult Day Care Center
106 Vivian Drive
(925) 639-8840

Damo Sushi — Restaurant

508-K Contra Costa Blvd
(925) 288-0007

Divine Dining — Catering

(925) 381-1684

European Touch Day Spa

Personal Service
1716 Linda Drive
(925) 677-7221

Hardway

Tree Service/Pruning
2592 Pleasant Hill Road
(925) 727-9109

Hawaiian Barbecue — Restaurant

60 – 15D Crescent Drive
(925) 681-3151

Las Trampas Motors

Automobile/Motor Vehicle Sales
3333 Vincent Road #225
(925) 788-5208

Learning Connection — Tutoring

670 Gregory Lane Suite C
(925) 947-4945

Magnolia Home Theater — Retailer

3260 Buskirk Avenue
(925) 988-0256

Mitchell Brothers — Management

706 Ruth Drive
(917) 723-6572

Law Office of Michael J. Mazza

Legal Services
3478 Buskirk Ave #1000
(625) 746-7137

Lisa L. Loel, L. AC

Occupational Therapy
1610 Oak Park Blvd #2
(925) 934-5088

Spectrum Center, Inc

Educational/Scientific/Research Organization
2400 Lisa Lane
(925) 685-9702

Avvi Meccanica — Auto Parts

No telephone number listed

Little Empire Media — Publishing

(925) 388-2301

Metro Wear — Retailer

(925) 827-5440

Netstrom

Computer Programming/Design/Analysis
(925) 932-2250

Yeti's Imports — Retailer

(925) 408-4115

Law Office Rachael Zeiphrburley

Legal Services
(925) 465-1365

New Businesses in November 2004

Black Diamond Tech Partners

Computer Programming/Design/Analysis
P.O. Box 23211
(925) 525-2721

Costa Ventures, Inc.

Real Estate Office
2255 Contra Costa Blvd, Suite 305
(925) 939-5300

Custom Castings

Custom Framing/Pictures
69 Doray Drive
(510) 522-1203

Cuts Fitness For Men — Health Club

2685 Pleasant Hill Road #C
(925) 938-2887

Hair Care By Tess — Hair Stylist

175 Cleaveland Road
(925) 935-1001

Innova Enterprises — Retailer

2800 Pleasant Hill Road #110
(925) 691-4732

Ladies Workout Express — Health Club

2685 Pleasant Hill Road
(925) 939-5239

Telas — Drapery Service

175 Hookston Road
(925) 934-4414

Trainers Source — Massage Therapy

2643 Pleasant Hill Road
(925) 383-4627

Bowie & Bruegmann, LLP — Attorneys

2255 Contra Costa Blvd, Suite 305
(925) 939-5300

Contra Costa Photography

Photographic Studios
(925) 381-5763

Creature Comforts Pet Sitting

Pet Sitting
(925) 348-1573

Hub Cap City — Auto Parts

(925) 256-6735

Vorheis Consulting

Consulting/Management Services/Sale Promotions
(925) 890-0255



Shop Pleasant Hill!



Library holds workshops for small business

Do you want to start your own business or do you want to grow your small business? The Contra Costa County Library is offering a series of free programs from January through April that will help ensure business success.

All open houses and workshops are free and open to small business owners and prospective business start-ups throughout the county.

Preview the Contra Costa County Library's new resources for small busi-

nesses such as materials on marketing, business plans, start-ups and much more. There will be a demonstration of the new market research database Reference USA. The open houses will be Tuesday, January 11 from 7:30 to 10am at the San

Ramon Library, 100 Montgomery Street (973-2850) and Wednesday, January 12 from 7 to 8:30pm at the Concord Library, 2900 Salvio Street (646-5456). Refreshments will be served at both events.

WORKSHOP ON VELOCITY MANAGEMENT	Thursday, January 13, 7:30pm	San Ramon Library	Velocity Management is a system of planning, action and decision-making underpinned by fact-based data that produces accelerated and measurable business results including sales growth, customer service, new product development and employee productivity. Presented by Leon Maynard, Bay Area Business Solutions.
MAXIMIZE THE USEFULNESS OF YOUR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	Thursday, February 24, 7pm	Concord Library	A team of experts from Clear Path Business Partners, a Bay Area consulting firm, will present a workshop on utilizing a financial statement to make better business decisions.
BEST MARKETING PRACTICES TO BUILD YOUR BUSINESS	Thursday, March 24, 7pm	Concord Library	Join Eric Kahn, an independent marketing consultant and former vice president of marketing at e-Phones, who will present a workshop on growing your business through best marketing practices.
MARKET RESEARCH FOR SMALL BUSINESSES	Thursday, April 7, 7:30pm	San Ramon Library	An overview of market research methodologies, approaches, uses, benefits and cautions for small businesses. Presented by David Schneer, co-founder and partner, Merrill Research.

Library computer lab doubles open hours

The Gates Computer Training Lab at the Pleasant Hill Library has doubled the hours open to the public. This is especially good news for students who need word processing and for those working on resumes or other documents. All 20 workstations in the computer lab have WORD and are networked to a quality laser printer.

The new hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 5 to 7:30pm and Saturday from 10am to 5:30pm. The computers may be used on a drop-in basis or reserved up to two days in advance. Each user is allowed one hour per day on Contra Costa County Library computers. Beginning January 5, workstations may be reserved remotely through the library's website, over the phone, or in person.

For more information, call the Pleasant Hill Library at 646-6434 during open hours Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from noon to 8pm or Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10am to 6pm. Visit the Contra Costa County Library's website at <http://www.ccclib.org>.



College Park Choir carols at City Hall

Members of the College Park High School Choir entertained employees of the City singing Christmas carols in front of the City holiday tree. The 14 students provided season's greetings and mood as they prepared to stroll through Downtown Pleasant Hill singing yuletide cheer.

Our very active organizations..

DVC student receives Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships

Diablo Valley College student Jose Alarcon has received the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. The scholarship is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and is congressionally funded. The Institute of International Education, through its Southern Regional Center in Houston, Texas administers them.

Awards are generally \$4,000 to \$5,000 and provide for U.S. citizen undergraduate students of limited financial means to pursue academic studies abroad. According to the program, such international study is intended to better prepare U.S. students to assume significant roles in an increasingly global economy and interdependent world. Alarcon is traveling to Florence, Italy for the spring study-abroad program. He was also awarded the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS)—a \$500 scholarship.

Applicants sought for Citizens' Advisory Committee On Redevelopment

The City Council is accepting applications to serve on Pleasant Hill's Citizens' Advisory Committee on Redevelopment. This Committee advises the Redevelopment Agency on projects designed for redevelopment project areas in Pleasant Hill. The Commission meets at City Hall on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. The term for this position expires in May 2006.

If you are interested in serving on this Committee and would like to receive an application, contact the City Clerk's office at 671-5284 or by e-mail at lstehr@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us. The application deadline is January 24.

Friends of Rodgers Ranch seeks volunteers

Family history is passed down from generation to generation through stories told to children and grandchildren. In many communities, it is the buildings that tell the stories of life gone by. Life-styles, architecture, and customs are revealed in the buildings built by the pioneers who migrated to this area.

The Friends of Rodgers Ranch works to restore and maintain the historic farmhouse, barn, and grounds at Rodgers Ranch as a living history museum while educating the residents of Pleasant Hill and the county through classes and activities. Preservation of this irreplaceable heritage is in the pub-



lic interest so that the vital legacy of culture, education, aesthetics, inspiration, economy, and energy benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations. Rodgers Ranch needs help.

The Friends of Rodgers Ranch will hold a Volunteer Workshop on Tuesday, January 18 from 7 to 9pm at the Pleasant Hill Community Center, McHale Room, for residents interested in learning about volunteer opportunities at the Ranch. For more information, call Denise at 387-0013 or by e-mail at roddgersranch@yahoo.com.

New board officers for Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District

Karen Mitchoff has been appointed Chair of the Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District. She is a 30-year resident of Pleasant Hill and works as an administrative analyst for children's and family programs for Contra Costa County.

"My goal is to maintain the high standard for services and programs that have been provided in the past and continue to move the District forward to the extent that we can within tight budget constraints. I look forward to increased participation and involve-

ment by the community as we plan for the future," said Mitchoff. She will preside over the Board as it forms decisions for the District's Master Plan based on recommendations made by a Community Task Force assembled in 2004. The public is invited to attend the District's Board Meetings held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7pm at the District Office, 147 Gregory Lane. For more information, call 925-682-0896 or visit www.pleasanthillrec.com.

4th of July Commission elects new president

The 4th of July Commission, which puts on the annual 4th of July parade and fireworks, has elected Jim Bonato as its new president. Jim and his family have lived in Pleasant Hill for 16 years, and he brings extensive volunteering experience to the group. He is a member of the Contra Costa County Grand Jury and is on the Pleasant Hill Redevelopment Advisory Commission.

The 2005 goal for the 4th of July Commission is to make the event as much fun for the volunteers as it is for the community. Bonato's vision for the day is to have a children's 5K run in the

morning prior to the parade, entice more participation in the parade from neighborhood groups, swim clubs and perhaps a marching band along with Doo-Dah marchers to add to the fun. Park activities would also have more displays and games for children of all ages. The fireworks show would be expanded, with food and soft drinks available to families while they watch the sky light up.

Anyone interested in being a community sponsor or volunteer is invited to call Jim Bonato at 938-5433

City Meetings

JANUARY

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
3 7:30 pm	City Council-Redevelopment Agency	Council Chambers
5 9:30 am	Commission on Aging	City Hall Small Community Room
5 6:30 pm	Civic Action Committee	City Hall Community Room
6 5:00 pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Manager's Conference Room
11 6:00 pm	Traffic Safety Committee	City Hall Community Room
11 7:30 pm	Planning Commission (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
13 5:0 pm	Zoning Administrator (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
17	City Hall closed in observance of Martin Luther King Holiday	
18 7:00 pm	Education/Schools Advisory Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
20 5:00 pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Manager's Conference Room
24 7:30 pm	Redevelopment Agency-City Council	Council Chambers
25 7:30 pm	Planning Commission (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
27 5:00 pm	Zoning Administrator (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
27 7:00pm	Citizens Advisory Committee on Redevelopment	City Hall Community Room

FEBRUARY

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
2 9:30 am	Commission on Aging	City Manager's Conference Room
2 6:30 pm	Civic Action Committee	City Hall Small Community Room
3 5:00 pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
7 7:30 pm	City Council-Redevelopment Agency	Council Chambers
8 6:00 pm	Traffic Safety Committee	City Hall Large Community Room
8 7:30 pm	Planning Commission (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
10 5:00 pm	Zoning Administrator (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
11	City Hall closed in observance of Lincoln's Birthday	
15 7:00 pm	Education/Schools Advisory Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
17 5:00 pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
21	City Hall closed in observance of Washington's Birthday	
22 7:30 pm	Planning Commission (Special meeting)	Council Chambers
24 7:00 pm	Citizens Advisory Committee on Redevelopment	City Hall Community Room
27 5:00 pm	Zoning Administrator (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
28 7:30 pm	Redevelopment Agency-City Council	Council Chambers

NOTE: Zoning Administrator hearing dates change!

Beginning in January, Zoning Administrator Hearings will change from the first and third Wednesday at 2pm to the second and fourth Thursday at 5pm. This change is aimed at better accommodating applicants and residents wishing to attend those hearings. Please note this important change in City meeting schedules to better serve Pleasant Hill residents.



CITY OF PLEASANT HILL

100 Gregory Lane
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-3323
925-671-5270
www.pleasanthill.ca.gov

CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor Michael G. Harris
Vice Mayor Terri L. Williamson

Councilmembers

Suzanne Angeli
David E. Durant
John Hanecak

City Manager Michael Ramsey
City Clerk Marty McInturf
Treasurer Suzanne J. Salter

CITY HALL HOURS

Monday-Wednesday 8:30am-5:00 pm
Thursday 8:30am-6:00 pm
Friday 8:30am-1:00 pm



The City of Pleasant Hill newsletter is published bimonthly. Deadline for stories and story ideas for Mar/Apr is Feb 11. Ideas are always welcome. Local non-profit groups may submit articles to the Public Information Officer at 100 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. For information, call Louie Gonzalez at 671-5229, fax to 671-5238, or email to Lgonzalez@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us.

PUBLISHED ON RECYCLED PAPER



Editor/Writer Louie Gonzalez
Design Donaghu Graphic Designs

COVER: Our colorful award-winning City Hall.

Important Phone Numbers

Police/Fire Emergency 911
Police (Business) 288-4600
Fire (Business) 930-5500
Public Services Center 671-4646
Chamber of Commerce 687-0700
Recreation & Parks 682-0896
PH Bayshore Disposal 685-4711
PG&E 800-743-5000
Senior Center 798-8788
Senior Van Service 671-5272

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Rotary will celebrate 100th birthday... and the community will gain a gazebo!

As a volunteer organization with over 31,000 clubs in more than 165 countries, Rotary International initiates humanitarian programs that address today's challenging issues, such as hunger, poverty, and illiteracy....and has been doing that for nearly 100 years!

Rotary club members represent a cross-section of business and professional leaders worldwide. These 1.2 million men and women donate their expertise, time, and money to support local and international projects that help people in need and promote understanding among cultures.

Rotary's flagship program is its effort to protect children against polio, with the goal of ending the disease throughout the world. Rotary is the leading private sector contributor and volunteer arm of the global effort to protect the world's children from this crippling disease.

As part of RI's 100th anniversary early in 2005, the **Rotary Club of Pleasant Hill** is planning on funding and

building a 20-ft gazebo for the community. It will be located in the park adjacent to the Community Center for use by all of the greater community of Pleasant Hill.

The 51-member club is energetically planning and moving forward with their fund-raising efforts. **Here's how you can help and become part of the history of Pleasant Hill!**

- Sponsor a portion of the gazebo... "buy" a railing or cornerpost!
 - Sponsor a brick used in the pathways...engrave your name, business, or personal message!
 - Purchase See's candy for Valentine's Day and Easter...the Christmas sale was very successful!
 - Attend the St. Patrick's Day Dinner & Auction on March 18...this annual event is an hilarious way to celebrate this Irish holiday! Co-sponsored by Houlihan's Restaurant, Wilma Lott Catering, and Irish Vineyards.
- Watch the media for more information on these activities! Or if you are ready to jump right in to help out, contact Mike Maxwell at 250-6412.**



City of Pleasant Hill
100 Gregory Lane
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-3323
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Happy NEW Year from your City employees!

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